

# Fact Sheet on Bill 1-01, Sidewalk Snow & Ice Removal

Sponsored by Councilmember Phil Andrews (Chair of Public Safety Committee), Councilmember Isiah Leggett (Chair, Transportation & Environment Committee), and Council Vice President Steve Silverman

- This bill would require homeowners to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks on or adjacent to their property within 24 hours after a snowfall. Current County law requires only limited snow shoveling on commercial properties and multi-family residential properties.
- The purpose is to clear a pathway wide enough for safe pedestrian and wheelchair use.
- The bill would require a written warning about a violation before imposing a \$50 civil fine if, within 24 hours after the warning, the situation is not corrected.
- It provides that single-family-home violators could be fined only once during a given snowfall or ice incident. Violations on commercial and multifamily properties would still be treated as separate violations for each day that a violation continues.
- The legislation would repeal the current law providing for the Police Department to enforce the shoveling requirement and allow the County Executive to designate an enforcement agency or agencies.
- The bill makes the obstruction of handicapped parking spaces by snow or ice punishable as a Class B violation, with fines up to \$100 for the first offense and \$150 for subsequent offenses.
- It would allow the use of sand, salt, or other abrasives if ice or hardpacked snow is unreasonably difficult to remove.

- The legislation allows an additional 24 hours to clear walkways if a snowplow redeposits snow or ice on a sidewalk.
- There is no obligation to clear private driveways or private walkways.
- The bill allows the County Executive to order a different deadline or requirements if conditions warrant.
- It allows the County to clear the snow and ice and charge the responsible property owner for the cost when necessary
- The legislation is similar to residential snow-shoveling requirements already in effect in County municipalities such as Rockville, Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, Poolesville, Kensington, and Chevy Chase Village. Also in Prince George's County, Howard County, the City of Frederick, the District of Columbia, and Alexandria, Virginia. Shoveling deadlines range from four hours to 48 hours after a snowfall.